### Focused on the throw



Goodland High School senior Hope Cochran threw the ball to third base during practice last week. The Cowgirls softball team played its first game Thursday at Hays. The girls' next game will be after Spring Break at 3 p.m. Friday, March 30, at home against Scott City.

Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

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# Goodland alumnus earns hall of fame spot

By Kevin Bottrell

kbottrell@nwkansas.com Believe it or not, but Ben Duell, who is receiving the National Wrestling Hall of Fame's "Lifetime Service to Wrestling" award, never wrestled until his senior year at Goodland High School.

"I got into a scuffle on the back side of the high school," he said. "I whipped up on one of the boys who went out for wrestling, so the other guys got me to try out.

He got third place at the state competition that year and was recruited by Kansas State University.

"My spirit kind-of exploded in all kinds of strange moves," he said. "That's how I won, they didn't know what to do with me."

Duell was nominated by the Colorado Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum. There will be an Honors Banquet for inductees in May and Duell will have a spot in the Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Okla.

Duell earned his recognition through his years of coaching the high school wrestling team in Burlington. After college, he worked as a vocational agriculture teacher in Overbrook and a sixth grade teacher in Junction City before moving back to northwest Kansas. He settled in Ruleton in 1960 and went to work teaching sixth grade in Burlington.

He didn't start out there a coaching position. Duell said he was bored on his lunch hour so he decided to boys team.

fifth and sixth graders.

"I discovered they learned quickly," he said, "because they didn't have any bad habits."

Because of eligibility rules in those days, he said, fifth and sixth graders could compete on the junior high school team. That year, his fifth and sixth graders made up the first six weight classes on the junior high team.

While teaching at Burlington, the school's football and wrestling coach was dismissed and Duell was tapped as his replacement. At the time, Burlington was a big basketball town, he said, but Wray was the best at wrestling.

a team that could beat Wray," he

Wray as well as getting state championships in 1973 and 1974. His Oberlin who had four adult children. team had four individual state Duell has 52 grandchildren. champions those years.

"It all developed by accident," he said. "I never had a game plan. I just kept working at it a day at a time, a month at a time."

Burlington's success in the 1970s helped wrestling become a major sport in the area.

education coach, where he said he also taught the girls how to wrestle. This got them interested in the sport so more would come to cheer on the

Saturday morning radio show, after all the other coaches had turned it down. He said he discovered that gave him a lot of influence and soon he had players, other coaches and parents listening in.

"I got to coach the whole community over the radio," he said.

Duell resigned from the Burlington School District in 1977 to fulfill his lifelong dream of building a farming operation. While he retired from education, he said he doesn't believe in full retirement.

"I will farm until they drag me off," he said.

He served on the Goodland school board eight years and stuck "My goal was to put together with radio broadcasting until two years ago.

Duell and his first wife had 15

Duell's team was able to beat children. She died seven years ago, but he remarried a woman from There are a lot of similarities

between raising a family and coaching a team, he said. Duell started his kids in wrestling when they were

"Mostly because they were driving their mother insane," he said.

His sons, Fred and Doug, wrestled Duell also served as the physical at Oklahoma State University. Doug started coaching in Burlington in

> Duell said he plans to attend the Honors Banquet for Hall of Fame inductees in May.

#### NATIVE GRASS and CRP FOR SALE BY SEALED BID

KS LEGAL: ALL OF SECTION 30-11-42; ALL OF STATELINE SECTION 25-11-43, all in Wallace County CO LEGAL: ALL OF STATELINE SECTION 30-11-41 in Kit Carson County. ALL LAND IS CONTIGUOUS AND CONTAINS 1280 acres, More or Less

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This land is located 18 miles South of Kanorado, KS or 13 miles North and 3 miles West of Weskan, KS It is situated along the stateline and has 651.46 Acres CRP with balance native grass. 366.9 Acres of KS CRP Contract expires 2012; 251.8 Acres CO CRP Contract Expires 2025. New Solar water pump and tank in 2012 and 1 mile new division fence built 2012. Also has 1 windmill.

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10% down upon acceptance of bid, balance in GOOD FUNDS at closing. Seller to pay all of 2011 real estate taxes and prorate 2012 taxes to closing. Seller to prorate 2012 CRP Contract Payment to closing Minerals: Buyer to receive all of Seller's minerals (they are not currently leased).

Owners Policies of Title Insurance cost to be split between the parties Settlement Costs to be split between the parties. CLOSING: On or before April 20, 2012 with delivery of Marketable Title

SELLER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS

### L & W

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## School calendar for March 16-20

LLACE COUN

Goodland High School • Grant Junior High School West Elementary School • Central Elementary School



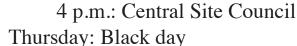


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Wednesday: Gold day

Earliest competition date for Spring Sports

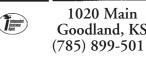
3 p.m.: Varsity Softball at Hays 4 p.m.: Parent/Teacher Conferences Friday: NO SCHOOL

8 a.m.: Parent/Teacher Conferences 3 p.m.: Varsity Baseball at Burlington

Monday and Tuesday:

NO SCHOOL-SPRING BREAK





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